

yards were remodeled in 1955, with new offices, sheds and warehouses. Lowe Ashton died in 1957, but his wife and two sons, Lowe Ashton, Jr., and Homer H. Ashton have continued to manage the companies successfully.

WASATCH MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

The Wasatch and Summit County Mutual Aid Society was organized in 1932, with membership available to those in good health between the ages of eight and 45. Membership fee was \$3.00.

The organizers, who came from outside the county, obtained a large membership. Chosen as local officers were Dr. T. A. Dannenberg, Dr. LeRoy Mahoney, Owen F. Buell, Charles N. Broadbent and Clark Bronson. The two-county organization lasted only a short time, and then Wasatch County alone grew to a membership of some 2,600 persons.

Curtis McMullin was the first secretary of the society, and he was succeeded by Clyde Broadbent. Mark Rasband also served for a short time.

The society paid \$1,000 upon the death of an insured member.

In 1958 the Utah Insurance Commission compelled the Society to convert to a regular insurance company. New policies had to be issued and premiums set up according to age, etc. This conversion caused a loss of some 1,000 members in the organization. Dr. Karl O. Nielson was chosen as the new society president when Dr. T. A. Dannenberg moved to California. Owen Buell later became president when Dr. Nielson died. Clark Bronson served as vice president. Still serving with Mr. Buell and Mr. Bronson are the directors, Dr. R. R. Green, Addison C. Moulton, Mark Rasband, and Rulon Carlile, secretary. Dr. Willard Draper and Forrest Dayton were also directors.

After the conversion the society took the name Wasatch Mutual Insurance Company. It is considered a sound company, and writes several different policies. It provides the only insurance many individuals in the county carry.

CONFECTIONS AND NOTIONS

Another business of long duration in the community is the old Heber Confectionary, now known as the "Crown Cafe." The business began on a small scale and was operated by A. E. Dayton for a few years. He then sold it to J. T. Murdock and S. J. Hylton who improved it and increased the business. Later, O. H. Hylton gained fame all over the state as an ice cream maker, and the business under his management grew with his renown. Add Averett took over the business, and the young people began referring to the store as "Add's." Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Rasband now own and operate the business as "Crown

Joseph T. Bush Murdock
oo Marvel Lay

Biographies

of Those Attaining National Recognition

MARVEL LAY MURDOCK



Marvel Lay Murdock was born August 6, 1897 in Vernal, Uintah County, the daughter of Wm. Elzy and Maude Davis Lay.

Mrs. Murdock attended the Kingsbury Congregational grade school and graduated from the Wilcox Academy in 1916.

The family had moved to Hanna, Utah, in 1912. Having always lived on a farm, Marvel fit right into ranch life when she married Joseph T. Murdock, co-owner and operator of a sheep ranch on the upper Duchesne River.

The Murdocks built a home in Heber in 1925 and then spent the school months in Heber and the spring and summer months at the ranch in Duchesne County.

Mrs. Murdock has been affiliated with the local auxiliary of the Wool Growers for many years. In 1944 she was elected vice

president of the State of Utah Wool Growers auxiliary, serving in this capacity for two years, then serving as president of the auxiliary the following two years. Later she served for four years as national vice president and two years as president of the National Woman's Auxiliary to the National Wool Growers Association.

The Murdocks are parents of two daughters, who passed away in infancy, and five sons, three of whom reside in Salt Lake City: Lowell A. is associated with the Robins Brokerage Co., Harvey L. is with the Investors Diversified Inc., Robert G. is with the Surety Life Insurance Co., J. Don is assistant to a construction contractor in Downey, California, and Allen D. is captain in the United States Air Force. 243



Marvel M. Lay Murdock



Marvel Murdock
Building Chairman



Marvel Murdock
Building Chairman

For
J. T. McNeal
Murdock
File



Utah State Historical Society

Elza Lay (William McGinnis), Cassidy's right-hand man.

mountain to the mill. He was thus engaged when he met Matt Warner, who, as was the custom at that time, had come to Telluride for the purpose of racing a mare named Betty that he had bought from Charley Crouse in Brown's Park, against a horse renowned throughout Southwestern Colorado.

It will be recalled that, at the age of thirteen, Matt Warner (Willard Christiansen) had left his home town of Levan, to which his parents had moved from Ephraim, Utah, in great haste; and that he eventually arrived in the Brown's Park country, where he went to work for Jim Warren on Diamond Mountain. This was the result of his having bashed in the head of a schoolmate with a heavy rock because of rivalry over the affections of a young lady. Having worked for Warren two or three years, Matt had just established a ranch of his own on Diamond Mountain when, one day, who should show up but the brother of the boy he thought he had killed. This lad, whose name

Warner felt free to get in touch with his parents. He sent them a letter, and shortly thereafter his nephew, Lew McCarty, arrived for a visit. Young McCarty, who had just turned thirteen, was spoiling for excitement and, as chance would have it, a few days after his arrival a suitable opportunity presented itself.

Elza Lay, who was about the same age as Matt Warner, brought the good word. It appears that a Jewish merchant, owner of a Rock Springs, Wyoming, dry goods and clothing store, had gone bankrupt. His creditors having attached the merchandise, with the assistance of a freighter named Bill Sparks, this individual had loaded it in a couple of wagons one dark night and hastily headed south. Now, safely across the Wyoming-Utah border, he was taking it easy, bragging and joking over having outwitted the Wyoming authorities. According to Lay, the merchant was en route to Vernal, where he intended setting up shop. Currently, however he and Sparks were in the forest

HAIR BRANDS

was contraband. Hence, were they to relieve him of it, the merchant could not have recourse to the law. Promising bold action and excitement with a minimum of risk, the situation was made to order.

Having had their supper, the merchant and Sparks were on the point of rolling into their blankets when three men, their hats pulled down over their foreheads and the lower portion of their faces hidden by bandanas, rode into camp. While one of the bandits covered them with a revolver, his confederates loosened the canvas sheets with which the wagons were covered and transferred the contents to a string of pack animals. Then, when the job was completed, having warned the merchant and his companion that it wouldn't be healthy for daylight to find them in that part of the country, the high-jackers faded into the forest as quickly and as silently as they had appeared.

As I have said, Matt Warner was no stranger to larceny of livestock; nor was Elza Lay. But relieving someone of their chattels at the point of a gun was another and a far more titillating matter. The escapade was a first for all three youngsters: a project they themselves had conceived, planned, and executed successfully without a word of advice from their elders. Hence they were jubilant as they rode through the night leading the heavily laden pack animals. The following morning, however, surveying the loot—yard goods, dresses, women's underthings, and myriads of knick-knacks: thread, needles, pin cushions, safety pins, ribbons, hooks and eyes, buttons, and other notions that they had acquired—they were at a loss to know what to do with it.

This holdup, it will be observed, occurred shortly after the first influx of settlers to Brown's Park. Hence a solution to the dilemma was not long in suggesting itself: "All at once somebody thought of the sad condition of the poor ranchers in Brown's Park . . . They was having a hard time. Suddenly their poverty almost wrung our hearts . . . When we got over to Brown's Park with the goods, we heard there would be a dance in the schoolhouse next Friday night. That made us

Marvel Murdock

HEBER CITY—Marvel Lay Murdock, 86, died Nov. 25, 1983 in Salt Lake City.

Born Aug. 6, 1897 in Vernal, Utah to Elza and Maude Davis Lay. Married Joseph T. Murdock July 1, 1918 in Heber City. He died Aug. 1, 1963. Served as president of Heber 1st Ward Primary and



YWMIA, Wasatch Stake YWMIA Board Member and various teaching positions in both stake and ward. President of National Woolgrowers Auxiliary and was instrumental in the development of the national "Make It with Wool" Contest. Member of the World Wool Council, member of the Wasatch County Fair Board, charter member Shakespearean Club, active in Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Accomplished artist and outstanding creative talent in floral and garden arrangements. Her father rode with the Butch Cassidy Gang.

Survivors: sons, Joseph Don, Havasu City, Calif.; Harvey L. and Robert G., both Salt Lake City, Allen, Dover, New Hampshire, 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by two daughters, Audrey and Mary Frances and a son, Lovell.

Funeral services Tuesday, 12 noon, at the Heber 6th Ward Chapel. Friends may call at Olpin Mortuary Monday, 7-9 p.m. and at the ward Chapel Tuesday prior. Burial Heber City Cemetery.



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ters of Utah Pioneers. Accomplished artist and outstanding creative talent in floral and garden arrangements. Her father rode with The Butch Cassidy Gang. Also Wasatch Co. Mother of the Year.

Survivors: Sons: Joseph Don-Havasu City, California; Harvey L. and Robert G. both Salt Lake City, and Allen-Dover, New Hampshire. Sixteen grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren. Sister: Mrs. Ralph (Lucille) Lay Morgan of L.A., Calif.

Preceded in death by two daughters: Audrey and Mary Frances and a son Lovell.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, 12:00 noon at the Heber 6th Ward Chapel. Burial Heber City Cemetery.